CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for producing primate embryoid bodies from colonies of primate embryonic stem cells that are adhering to a substrate, the method comprising:

removing the adhering colonies of the embryonic stem cells from the substrate in clumps; and

then incubating the clumps in a container under conditions in which the clumps are essentially inhibited from attaching to the container and coalesce into embryoid bodies.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step is conducted in the presence of an enzyme that promotes disassociation of the clumps as clumps from the substrate.
 - 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the enzyme is dispase.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step is conducted in the presence of a chelating agent.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step comprises mechanically scraping the clumps from the substrate.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step is conducted in the presence of trypsin, calcium and magnesium.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the incubation step comprises agitating the container.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the incubation step is conducted in a container made of plastic.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the incubation step is conducted in the presence of a serum-free medium.

- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the primate embryonic stem cells are human embryonic stem cells and the primate embryoid bodies are human embryoid bodies.
 - 11. A primate embryoid body derived from the method of claim 1.
- 12. The primate embryoid body of claim 11, wherein the embryoid body is a human embryoid body.
 - 13. A differentiated primate cell derived from the embryoid body of claim 11.
 - 14. The differentiated primate cell of claim 13, wherein the cell is a human cell.
- 15. The differentiated primate cell of claim 14, wherein the cell is a human neural cell.